

(c) whether it is a fact that free railway passes are issued to news-persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rs. 88.46 crore in 2004-05 and Rs. 92.61 crore in 2005-06.

(b) These advertisements are released to the newspapers approved by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) based on their standing, circulation, place of publication, target area, availability of funds, etc. on rotation basis to a limited number of publications for a particular insertion.

(e) Single to & fro journey passes are issued in favour of news-persons occasionally for covering events connected with Railway working with the approval of the Competent Authority in relaxation of extant rules.

Opening up passenger train service to private sector

1939. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open up passenger train services to the private sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Services announced in rail budget

1940. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the train services announced in 2006-07 railway budget have been started;

(b) if so, the names/details of the trains service which have been introduced, so far, and which are to be introduced and by when; and